



... BRIEFLY

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Israel-Palestine BDS Special Issue

Vol. 69 Fall 2013

www.presbypeacefellowship.org ppfwitness@presbypeacefellowship.org
Trusting the Nonviolence of Jesus Christ Today

This issue of Briefly focuses on how Presbyterians can support BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine

PPF establishes Occupation-Free Endowment Fund

By Melinda Thompson

In the last issue of *Briefly* we reported that we were restarting the Endowment Campaign with the opportunity to donate to a new Occupation-Free portion of the Endowment Fund, as well as with a \$25,000 matching gift opportunity for funds received by September 15. An Occupation-Free Fund (OFF) does not invest in corporations that assist in or profit from the occupation of Palestine by Israel. Here's an update:

By the end of September, you, PPF's donors, had responded to the formation of an Occupation-Free Fund by giving \$72,300 (including the matching funds) to be held in occupation-free investments. Thank you!

Because the PC(USA) has not yet divested of corporations assisting the occupation, it is not practical for the New Covenant Funds of the Presbyterian Foundation to manage the new Occupation-Free portion of PPF's endowment at its current level. We hope that will change after June 2014 if there is a General Assembly vote approving divestment from three companies earmarked by the Mission Responsibility through Investment Committee in 2012 for divestment: Motorola Solutions, Hewlett-Packard, and Caterpillar. As stakeholders in the Foundation, with about \$350,000 of our endowment there, PPF will work tirelessly for divestment at GA so that no Presbyterian dollars are used to bolster the occupation.

As Jesus calls us to bring the Commonwealth of God to earth, the PPF National Committee voted at its annual meeting, on the advice of its Endowment Investment Committee, to place new funds designated by donors for

occupation-free investing with Just Money Advisors of Louisville, KY. A small firm specializing in socially-responsible investments, Just Money Advisors has agreed to provide PPF with an investment vehicle that screens out the three earmarked companies, plus additional military contractors and corporations that are complicit in the occupation of Palestine by exploiting, contributing to or profiting from the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

More good news: The Occupation-Free portion of the endowment now has an opportunity to grow vastly by year end due to yet another generous matching gift announced at the meeting of the National Committee. A new matching gift of \$50,000 to the OFF has been offered by an anonymous donor to match \$25,000 of new monies donated to the Occupation-Free portion of the Endowment Fund between September 21 and December 31, 2013, and \$25,000 of new monies donated to the operating budget of PPF before the end of the year. We still need to support PPF's daily work!

The National Committee also voted to ask the Endowment Investment Committee to work to become occupation-free in all our investments, which will take some work. Meanwhile the Occupation-Free Fund with Just Money Advisors serves as a model to demonstrate that occupation-free investing is both possible and profitable.

Please join me in making a generous donation to both the Occupation-Free Fund of the Endowment and to the Operating Budget of PPF before the end of 2013 so we can maximize the \$50,000 grant and put our money where our mouth is regarding an end to the Israeli occupation.

...BRIEFLY is the newsletter of the
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Jim Atwood Selected as 2014 Peaceseeker

“For too many, guns have become idols. They claim divine status; make promises of safety and security they cannot keep; transform people and neighborhoods; create enemies; and require human sacrifice.” – Jim Atwood

The Rev. James E. Atwood has been unanimously selected by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship National Committee to receive the 2014 Peaceseeker Award. The award will be presented at the Peace Breakfast at the Detroit General Assembly in June, 2014.

Jim, a retired Presbyterian pastor, became involved in gun violence prevention after a member of his congregation was shot and killed by a robber with a Saturday Night Special. For over 30 years he has served as board member of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. He has been Interfaith Coordinator of the Million Mom March, chair of the Greater Washington chapter of the anti-gun-violence group Heeding God's Call, and National Committee member of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. He is the author of *America and its Guns: A Theological Exposé*, and a contributor to *Gun Violence, Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God's Call*, a resource for Presbyterians approved by the 219th General Assembly in 2010. Most recently, Jim's work with Heeding God's Call is featured in the video *TRIGGER: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence*.

Congratulations, Jim, and thank you for your faithful leadership in the struggle against the continuing epidemic of senseless gun violence.

A Peacemaker's Calendar

Nov. 22-25, 2013 – SOA Watch Annual Vigil at Ft. Benning, Georgia. (See p. 8)

Jan. 3-17, 2014 – PPF Young Adult Delegation to Israel-Palestine. Please pray for this group of peacemakers every day and follow their journey on our website and Facebook page.

March 13 - 17, 2014 – Colombia Accompaniment Training at Stony Point, NY (See p. 3)

April 28 - May 10, 2014 – Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference in Israel/Palestine. Apply by Nov. 15. Info: www.pcusa.org/mosaicofpeace

June 13 - 21, 2014 – 221st Presbyterian General Assembly in Detroit, MI. Celebrate PPF's 70th anniversary at the Peace Breakfast on June 18 with Medea Benjamin! For information about volunteer opportunities, email ga@presbypeacefellowship.org

Colombia: PPF Celebrates 100th Accompanier

More Volunteers Needed for Winter-Spring

By Linda Eastwood

Colombia Accompaniment, anyone? Our Summer accompaniers had an eventful time – present during teak-planting work in Urabá (that’s accompanier Ben Snipes at the front of the dugout,) and during national strikes and some very worrying human-rights issues.

A particular “shout-out” goes to accompanier Lora Burge, who spent a full 3 months alongside our partners in the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, helping teach a course at the Reformed University in June and then co-accompanying in both July (in Urabá) and August (in Barranquilla) – the latter at very short notice! And another “shout out” goes to Sergio Centeno, who in August became the one hundredth person to serve as an accompanier in our program.

One thing remains sure – that the program needs volunteers to serve. Sadly we have an “accompaniment gap” right now; it’s generally easier to find folks for the summer than for spring and fall. We need people who are 21 and over, with mature faith (but not necessarily Presbyterian), and ability to give a month of their time (after a long weekend of training) and to raise about \$2,200 of support funds. We particularly need Spanish-speakers, but those who do not speak Spanish are also welcome to apply. (At least one of each pair must always a Spanish-speaker.) Do you

have a big heart, and a willingness to listen, to encourage, and to share in others’ lives without feeling the need to “solve” their problems for them? Could this be you? Could you serve? Do you know others who could?



Check out some details at <http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/colombia/accompaniment> and then contact PPF’s new **Accompaniment Coordinator Jess Hunter-Bowman** at colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org. The next training and discernment session will be March 13-17, 2014, at The Stony Point Center, Stony Point, NY. Will you join us?

PPF Develops a Constructive Conflict Management Course

By Phineas Washer

During 2013 PPF, in collaboration with Mission Presbytery (San Antonio-Austin, TX area), has taken initial steps toward developing a course in the constructive management of conflict for adults in Presbyterian congregations. By the time you read this the first phase of this project will have been completed: piloting the conflict management course in three congregations in Mission Presbytery. Faith and Westminster in Austin (with memberships of 169 and 669 respectively) and St. Andrew in San Antonio (membership of 205) served as the three congregations.

The seven week course features studies in “Focusing on Interests, Not Positions,” “Guidelines for Deep Listening,” “Standing in the Other’s Shoes,” “Levels of

Engagement with the ‘Other Side,’ “Softening One’s Approach,” and “Using I Statements.” *Getting to Yes* by Roger Fisher and others provides background reading for the participants.

A second phase of development is projected for 2014 in which “lay people” will be trained in leadership. Marilyn White and I, both members of the National Committee of PPF, have taken the lead in designing and implementing this program. Also, the Rev. Dr. Miles White, former clerk of Mission Presbytery, has helped design and lead sessions of the course. Dr. Karl Slaikeu, a noted psychologist and author in this field, serves as consultant.

Israel-Palestine Update: What Is BDS and How Can You Participate?

The BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction) Movement is a nonviolent way for peacemakers everywhere to help end the occupation of Palestinian territory by the nation of Israel. This occupation has been a source of world conflict and inhumane injustice for over six decades. Based on international law and human rights standards, BDS is a response to the epistle from the Palestinian Christian community known as the *Kairos Document*, in which they pled for their fellow Christians around the world to unite in boycotts, divestment, and sanctions against the occupation. The stated goals of the BDS movement are to boycott until Israel complies with international law by ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the wall; recognizing the fundamental rights of the Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and recognizing the Right of Return of Palestinian refugees as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

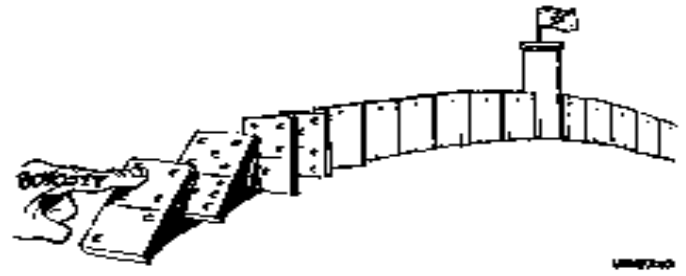
At its July 2012 meeting the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) approved a statement that calls upon all nations to prohibit the import of products made by enterprises in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land and directs the Stated Clerk to communicate this action to all other PC(USA) councils and entities and invite and strongly encourage those groups and organizations to endorse this boycott until significant progress toward Palestinian rights and independence is made. The boycott is not against the people or the state of Israel; it is against specific Israeli government policies and practices that destroy hope for a just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Occupation-Free Shopping

You can heed that call by not buying the products below and telling others about the boycott of products made in illegal settlements:

AHAVA COSMETICS: *cosmetics made from Dead Sea minerals – moisturizers, creams, bath salts, etc*

The company factory and visitors' center are in an illegal Israeli settlement, Mitzpe Shalem, in the occupied West Bank. These products are sold at Macy's, Nordstrom's, Bed Bath & Beyond, Marshall's, TJ Maxx, Target, Lonely Planet, Zappo's, Amazon.com, BeautyBride.com, DermStore.com, SkinOne.com,



VitaCost.com, Soap.com, Makeup Alley, Birchbox.com, and Ulta Health and Beauty, among other places.

SODASTREAM: *home carbonated beverage machines and syrups*

The main plant of the company is in the industrial zone of Mishor Edomim (also spelled Adumim, Adomim, or Edummim), an illegal settlement in the West Bank. Products are sold at Amazon, Bloomingdale's, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Bon Ton, Crate & Barrel, Costco, HyVee, JC Penney, Kitchen Collection, Kohl's, Le Gourmet Chef, Macy's, Meijer, Sears, Shopko, Staples, Sur la Table, Target, Williams-Sonoma, and SkyMall, among other places.

INTERSTAR, TIP TOP, AND EDUSHAPE TOYS: *modular plastic toys, building pieces*

These products are made in the Barkan Industrial Zone, part of an illegal settlement in the West Bank. Attached to the residential settlement of Ariel, Barkan was established in 1982 on the land of the Palestinian villages of Haris, Bruqin and Sarta. The industrial zone hosts a disproportionate number of factories that pollute the environment. For example, waste from Barkan runs down the hillside of the Al -Matwi Valley, damaging Palestinian farmland. Palestinian laborers are employed in the industrial zone and are paid, as documented in several sources, below the minimum wage and denied the right to unionize. The products are shipped to Edushape USA. They are sold at Toys R Us, Amazon, Walmart, Muni Toys, and other locations.

KETER PLASTIC PRODUCTS: *garden furniture, outdoor storage solutions and sheds, shelving systems and utility cabinets, tool boxes and storage products*

for the Do-it-yourself (DIY) market, as well as household, baby and toddler products

Both Keter and its full subsidiary, Lipski, have factories in the Barkan Industrial Zone (see above). The products are sold at Ace Hardware, Amazon.com, BJ's Wholesale, Costco, Home Depot, Menards, Lowe's, Orchard Supply Hardware, Sam's Club, Sears, Walmart, Wayfair, Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, True Value Hardware, PepBoys, and other locations. Keter is licensed to use the name Black & Decker and sells under that name the following products: Black & Decker Storage Building, SpaceRite Cabinets, and the Workmate series of storage containers.

WINERIES LOCATED IN ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS *in the Palestinian Territories or the Golan Heights and exporting to the United States*

Arza Winery T.R.Z
Assaf Winery
Barkan Wineries
Bashan Winery
Bazelet Hagolan Winery
Binyamina Winery
Bustan Hameshushim Winery
Chateau Golan Winery
Gat Shomron Winery
Givon Winery
Gush Etzion Winery
Livni Winery
Noah/Hevron Winery
Psagot Winery
Shiloh Winery
Tura Estate Winery

(This list was prepared by the Interfaith Peace Initiative using information from WhoProfits.org)

This article was compiled from information provided by the Israel/Palestine Mission Network on their website www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org, which contains extensive resources on BDS.

Use your product review on Amazon and other shopping sites to tell the world why you are not buying these products!



Divestment and Sanctions

By Marilyn White

While the approval of boycotts was a new action for the General Assembly in 2012, the church has considered divestment and sanctions for a number of years. The 2010 General Assembly approved a resolution calling for the United States to withdraw military aid to Israel until it follows U.S. foreign assistance law in regard to using military equipment for the occupation of the Palestinian territories. A year ago, the Stated Clerk signed a letter from 15 major faith groups to Congress seeking to make U.S. military aid to Israel contingent upon its government's "compliance with applicable U.S. laws and policies." The signers urged an immediate investigation into possible violations by Israel of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act and the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, which respectively prohibit assistance to any country which engages in a consistent pattern of human rights violations and limit the use of U.S. weapons to "internal security" or "legitimate self-defense." The current budget discussions in Congress present an ideal opportunity to let your Senators and Representatives know that you oppose military aid to Israel.

The 2012 G.A. failed to approve a recommendation from Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) calling for targeted divestment from three companies that profit from the illegal Israeli occupation. However, Presbyterians who control their own portfolios can certainly divest from Motorola Solutions, Hewlett-Packard, and Caterpillar. Now is the time to bring divestment overtures to your session and presbytery so that the 2014 General Assembly can reconsider this issue. Please contact our Middle East working group convener, Melinda Thompson (melinda4994@gmail.com), if you can help with this effort. And as you consider charitable gifts, remember the PPF Occupation-Free Endowment Fund.

Remembering Meta Ukena

We were saddened to learn of the July 19 death of Meta Ukena, who was Co-Moderator of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship in the 1990s. Meta brought an activist's energy to PPF. Under her leadership we joined the effort to close the School of the Americas. While writing overtures to G.A. and letters to Congress were part of this effort, we also participated in fasts on the steps of the Capitol and civil disobedience at Fort Benning, Georgia. A new generation of Presbyterian peacemakers began to join us. Meta was outspoken in her belief in nonviolence and in her commitment to bold actions for peace. Her legacy is easily seen in the activist, energetic, bold, young Peace Fellowship of today.

Peggy Howland remembers climbing the stairs all the way up to the third floor of a mansion in Upper Nyack, New York, the headquarters of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and sitting down to do business with Meta in the little office which was PPF headquarters for many years. "Meta came in and climbed all those stairs day after day after day...and conducted the work of PPF and managed the office, as a secretary and office manager, as well as Co-Moderator of PPF, and sometimes I would climb those stairs to meet with her. She had become one of the most dedicated National Committee members working for peace on many fronts. She opened all the mail and answered it, handled the contributions, answered the phone, was our liaison with the FOR bookkeeper who kept our accounts and paid our bills, and worked tirelessly, traveling over from Westchester to Nyack on countless trips. All this, in addition to leading our PPF National Committee!"

Ann Barstow remembers the early years of the SOA witness. "At the 1992 National Committee meeting at Princeton Seminary, we agreed to support the protest against the School of the Americas. Led by Meta and Clinton Marsh, we took a number of steps (at General Assembly, protests in DC, etc.) and finally, in 1997, Fr. Roy Bourgeois told us to come to Ft. Benning to do civil disobedience at the main gate. Meta, who already could not walk far, led a little group of PPFers into the line. As we crossed the line we looked back and saw Meta cheering us on. Although she could not manage the CD, she was surely with us in spirit.



Crossing the line at Fort Benning, 1998. Left to right: Marilyn White, Meta Ukena, Tom Driver, and Bill Galvin.

"In 1998, we returned to Ft. Benning. Still determined to do CD, Meta arrived in a wheelchair and Tom Driver offered to push her over the line. Some of us waited outside the gate for over an hour for word of our friends' fate. Finally we saw Meta, Tom pushing her in her chair, coming back out of the base. Meta had been foiled again – the crowd was so huge that the police gave up and arrested no one! Hundreds had been bussed to a Columbus suburb and had a long walk back, but Meta and Tom came back the short way to be met by our cheers."

As we say when we remember the victims, the martyrs, the Saints, and the inspirational peacemakers of past and current struggles for justice:

Meta Ukena – ¡Presente!



Nonviolence News

Colombia Accompaniment Program

After three years of highly effective and dedicated service, Linda Eastwood announced her intention to step down from the role of Colombia Accompaniment Coordinator. We have been so grateful for Linda's ability to be a true partner to our colleagues in the Church in Colombia, her zeal for recruiting and supporting new accompaniers, and her high attention to the myriad details necessary to manage this complex program. Even as she steps out of this pivotal role, Linda promises to continue to volunteer with our Colombia work.

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is extremely pleased to announce that Jess Hunter-Bowman of Witness for Peace joined our staff on October 16, 2013 as the new Colombia Accompaniment Coordinator. Jess lived and worked in Latin America with Witness for Peace for nine years, most recently as the Colombia-based WFP Andean Regional Director. Jess previously worked at the U.S. Office on Colombia as the Senior Associate. From 1998 to 2002, Jess served as a member of the Witness for Peace International Team. He worked on the Guatemala program and co-founded both the Mexico and Colombia programs. He has been widely published in the media, including in the Miami Herald and the Providence Journal. Jess is also the author of a chapter in the book *Children of the Drug War*. Jess, his wife Janna, and their two daughters currently live in South Bend, IN where they are part of the Cana Community and Kern Road Mennonite Church. He stated: "I am honored to join the long tradition of peace work of the Presbyterian Church embodied by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. It is a humbling privilege to be called to stand with the Presbyterian Church of Colombia and support their bold witness for peace and justice in a war-torn land."

Looking ahead to General Assembly

PPF has prepared sample overtures on two topics we would like to see presented to the 221st General Assembly in Detroit next June. One opposes the use of

lethal drones. The other encourages the GA to affirm nonviolence as the basis for the final 2 years of the denomination's peace discernment process. The full text of both of these overtures may be found on our web site, presbypeacefellowship.org. We also have information about overtures on Divestment, a Child Sex Trafficking Travel Policy, and Gun Violence. Please contact our GA planning team at ga@presbypeacefellowship.org if you can take an overture to your session or presbytery.

We are also planning to bring young adult volunteers from the January PPF Israel-Palestine delegation to GA to provide testimony and support to commissioners as they reconsider divestment and other Middle East issues. Two additional intern positions for GA work will be posted on our web site by early 2014.

National Committee Meeting

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship met in September at Stony Point Center to plan program initiatives for 2014. We welcomed several new National Committee members: Abbi Heimach of Chicago, IL, Julienne Oldfield, of Syracuse, NY, Jamie McLeod, of Amsterdam, NY, Ben Snipes of Chicago, IL, and Monica Styron, of Miami, FL.

We approved an exciting new effort to support the creation of new or emerging "peace communities" in seven different locations across the United States. Details will be coming in the Winter issue of *Briefly*.

The PPF Endowment has Received Gifts in

Loving Memory of:

Margaret Black & Meta Ukena

Blessed are the Peacemakers...

Close the SOA! November 22-24

Join the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship at the annual vigil in Columbus, Georgia to close the School of Americas/WHINSEC. Thousands will gather at the gates of Fort Benning, with speakers, music, street theater, workshops and networking with people from across the Americas. We come together where the killers are trained to demand an end to US militarization and to impunity. The Vigil weekend is your opportunity to connect our communities with those across the hemisphere who are resisting Empire. In addition to the main funeral procession on Sunday, November 24, we will again have rallies, concerts, workshops, caucuses and street theater on Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday night, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship will host a workshop on "Moral Injury: When a soldier betrays his or her sense of what's right, under orders," at the downtown Columbus convention center. PPF National Committee member Bill Galvin and Maria Santelli, Executive Director of the Center for Conscience & War, will lead a discussion about moral injury and its consequences for individuals, families, congregations, and communities.

On Saturday afternoon, visit the PPF information table at the gates of Fort Benning, and on Sunday morning, march with fellow Presbyterians behind the PPF banner in the solemn memorial procession that is the highlight of the weekend's activities. We will conclude the weekend with our PPF tradition of Communion at the Gate, led by the Rev. Christine Caton.

For more information about how you can join PPF in Columbus, Georgia this November, please email Marilyn White at marwhite@igc.org or call 512-450-2766. Check the SOA Watch website at soaw.org for a complete list of events.

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Fall 2013 Special Middle East Issue

What is BDS and why should we

Be Doing Something

to end the occupation of Palestine?